Table of Contents

1. Chapter 1
2. Chapter 2
3. Chapter 3
4. Chapter 4
5. Chapter 5
6. Chapter 6
7. Chapter 7
8. Chapter 8
9. Chapter 9
10. Chapter 10
11. Chapter 11
12. Chapter 12
13. Chapter 13
14. Chapter 14
15. Chapter 15
16. Chapter 16
17. Chapter 17
18. Chapter 18
19. Chapter 19
20. Chapter 20
21. Chapter 21
22. Chapter 22
23. Chapter 23
24. Chapter 24
25. Chapter 25
26. Chapter 26
27. Chapter 27
28. Chapter 28
29. Chapter 29
30. Chapter 30

Chapter 1

-BrownPool? BrownPool, where are you? GreyWing is kitting! – PineTail ran out of the nursery to the medicine cat's den.

-They're beutifull! – GreyWing looked at her kits.

-How do you want to name them? - IceFlower-the other queen-asked.

-Hmm..this one will be called LimeKit, second one RockyKit, and the last one...SmallKit. – when GreyWing was telling kits names she touched every kit gently on head by her nose.

-Those names are great for them. – BrownPool quickly said before leaving nursery.

So I am SmallKit!

After one day first kit opened it's eyes. It was LimeKit.

-Her eyes are green! She's so pretty! – IceFlower looked at both she-cats with smile on her face.

-I wonder if one of the kits have eyes like PineTail... - GreyWing looked at her daughters and softly purred.

-GreyWing look! SmallKit is opening her eyes! - IceFlower nudged GreyWing wih her paw.

So...this is the nursery?

-Her eyes are green too! – GreyWing started licking her head – LimeKit! Come here to see your sister!

A small fur ball was moving closer to GreyWing.

-Oh! It's you SmallKit! Hello sister! – LimeKit's face was covered in a huge smile.

-Hello LimeKit! Did RockyKit already opened her eyes?

-No, we're still waiting for her. – GreyWing was looking at her third kit.

- I can't wait to go to see the camp with you and RockyKit! – LimeKit was jumping around SmallKit.

-You want to see the whole camp, huh? – IceFlower asked.

- Yeah!

GreyWing looked at IceFlower a bit surprised.

-They're too young to explore camp by themselves don't you think so? -GreyWing expresse with decisiveness in her voie.

-GreyWing! Pleeeease! – LimeKit pleased her mother –Pretty, pretty please!

-I'll think about it tomorow... – GreyWing was looking a bit tired.

-Maybe RockyKit will open her eyes tommorow. – IceFlower said.

Yawn...

-SmallKit...you look kinda sleepy, better get some rest... – LimeKit seems a little worried about her sister.

-LimeKit I'm fine...

- Better go to sleep SmallKit...you too LimeKit. – GrayWing puttted all her kits closer to her body and then covered them with her long and fluffy tail.

RockyKit started fidgeting in her sleep. She was rorating from a side to side.

Uhh...can she stop that..?

After couple minutes RockyKit stopped fidgeting. She was laying on GrayWing's belly.

Finally we all can sleep.

Chapter 2

Night was very cold. Next moring, sun was visible on the sky very early. Bright light was iluminating almost the whole nursery. A cooler wind of leaf-fall began to fill the nursery.

Huh..? RockyKit is shaking...?

Maybe I can make her feel warmer?
A bright grey kit moved to a darker one and layed around it.

Come on sister...stop shaking!

LimeKit woke up.
-What's going on...? – LimeKit looked at shaking RockyKit.

-She's shaking since the wind started to blew...I tried o make her warmer but she's still shaking.

-If we both will start making her warmer she'll probably stop doing this. – LimeKit began to come closer to her moving sister, warming her.

-She's still shaking... - LimeKit started to get in panic.

-We have to wake GreyWing.
LimeKit jumped on GreyWing's head and started hitting mother ears by her paws.

I'll wave my tail over her nose...maybe she'll wake up.

After some time GrayWing opened her eyes.
-What in the name of StarClan are you doing LimeKit and SmallKit?! – a bit nervous GreyWing threw both kits from her body and looked at the surprisedly and angry.

-Something happened to RockyKit! She's shaking uncontrollably!

-We're trying to make her warmer but it didn't helped! – LimeKit

saw sadness and worriedness in GreyWing's eyes.

-LimeKit and SmallKit...please bring RockyKit closer to me... - GreyWing ordered.
Second queen in the den awoke.

-What happened GreyWing? – IceFlower asked.

-IceFlower! RockyKit is shaking for long time.....we don't know what happened to her! – GreyWing was in panic.

-Don't worry GreyWing...I'll go for BrownPool and everything will be fine. – IceFlower leaved the nursery and was heading to medicine cat's den.

-RockyKit...sister what's wrong?RockyKit started sneezing.
She's sick?
A moment later two she-cats rushed to the nursery.

-GreyWing, give me the RockyKit. – BrownPool -medicie cat- layed next to dark grey queen.
RockyKit sneezed again.

-What happened to her? Is she sick? – LimeKit asked BrownPool.

- I think she is. I need to take her to medicine den. – BrownPool grabbed kit by the neck and rushed to her den.

-She'll be fine...I promise – IceFlower tried to cheer up GreyWing and her kits.

Chapter 3

After two days RockyKit was better and she opened her eyes.

-BrownPool told me that RockyKit is feeling better today. She opened her eyes and you can visit her in the medicine cat's den. – GreyWing was entering nursery.

I wonder what her eye color is!

-Will you go with us? – LimeKit asked GreyWing.

-No, I think you can go there by yourselves.– GreyWing asweared.

-And you can see a little bit of camp. – IceFlower looked at two kits.

-The medicine cat's den is staight ahead. – GreyWing showed a small hole in the bush wall covered by long leafs.

-Come on SmallKit! –LimeKit ran out of the nursery and sat next to enter of it.

-Let's go sister!

After a while two kits rushed into medicine den.

It was made in a cave covered by some bramble bushes and leafs. It had big and flat rocks, perfect for storting herbs. Sharp herb sent got into SmallKit's nose.

- Eww... whats that?

- Catnip my dear – a skinny ginger she-cat walked from the left side of cave – I'm SpruceFeather..medicine's cat apprentice...you must be SmallKit and LimeKit.

- Yes, we are. Where's our sister RockyKit? – LimeKit asked quickly.

- Come with me...she can't wait to see you two –SpruceFeather went

to other side of cave, covered in leafs.

- I can't wait to see our sister!

- BrownPool? SmallKit and LimeKit came to see RockyKit. - SpruceFeather talked to her menthor.

- Ahh yes. Let them in! – BrownPool ordered.

After a while medicine cat's den with joyfull kit mews.

- It's good to see you up and about.

- It's good to see you sisters. – RockyKit smiled.

- If you're better then let's go RockyKit! There's no time to waiste....you need to see the nursery and our mother! – LimeKit was jumping and waving her tail.

- You can go with them RockyKit. – BrownPool told her.

Three kits ran out the medicine cat's den with happiness.

-It's here! – LimeKit standed in front of the nursery.

- Come in!

- We're back with RockyKit!

GrayWing raised her head up and looked at three fur bals sitting in the middle of the nursery.

Chapter 4

- We're all glad that you're back in the nursery RockyKit. – IceFlower was looking at sitting kit.

_ Weren't you borred all days in medicine den? There were nothing to do! – LimeKit asked.

- When I felt better BrownPool letted me sort some herbs with her. Some of them smelled really bad but rest was fine.

SmallKit was looking around the nursery as LimeKit and RockyKit were talking. She putted her gaze on a small moss element hidden in the corner of nursery.

We can play with it!

SmallKit walked closer and grabbed that moss to her mouth.

- Hey you two, look! – she shouted as she went to her sisters with moss. – We can play a game! I call it moss-throw!

- What is it about? – LimeKit asked waving her tail.

- It's really easy! I'll trow this moss piece and once it'll fall down we need to get it. Whoever will grab it first wins and in the next round trows moss. Is everything clear?

- Yes it is! – RockyKit nodded. – Let's go and play it!

- Just don't go too far. – GreyWing called after three kits were leaving.

- Okay as I said before I'll start...is everyone ready? – SmallKit grabed moss by her teeth ready to throw.

- We're ready! – both her sisters answeared.

SmallKit threw green ball in front of her and as it fall she started running with her sisters. LimeKit dashed before RockyKit and SmallKit and as she reached moss she grabed it and stopped. After a short while two of her sisters stopped near her.

- I win. – LimeKit smiled.

- Well done LimeKit! – SmallKit said. – You can throw moss, we're ready.

- Okay. – LimeKit threw green ball and three kits ran for it again.

When SmallKit was near to catch it RockyKit slided before her and she grabbed ball.

Hnnnngh! They're better than me in my own game!

- Hahah, I win! – RockyKit started jumping with happyness.

- Ready? – RockyKit asked.

SmallKit and LimeKit nodded.

As the ball hitted the ground SmallKit ran as fast as she can. The moss stopped a little behind oaks that septares StormClan's camp. SmallKit didn't noticed that and she kept running.

They're slowing...I'll win! I'll win!

- SmallKit watch out the water! – RockyKit

shouted to her running sister.

SmallKit grabed the ball. She didn't stopped and she started felling into a deep water pool.

Oh no! I'm loosing ground under my paws! Dear StarClan help me!

She fell under the waves of cold water but then something grabed her by neck.

- Gotcha little one! – a brown tom tooked her from water.

SmallKit started to cough water out of her muzzle.

- Is she okay PineTail? – GreyWing rushed to brown tom.

- Yes she is, I couldn't have stand the death of my kit. She need to pay more attention.

PineTail. Dad, you saved me!

Chapter 5

- Let all the cats old enough to catch prey get near the Burned Tree for a clan meeting!

- IrisStar called clan! –RockyKit started to walk from left to right side of nursery.

- If you won't stop moving SmallKit we won't be on time on gathering! – GreyWing tried to straight her daughter's fur.

- I hope that your mentor will teach you to pay more attetion to what you are doing... - LimeKit said.

- Hey! I was very young then! I did't noticed where I'm going and is there a water or not! – SmallKit shouted with frustration.

- Now you'll think twice before you'll do something – GreyWing finnished licking SmallKit's fur. – Let's go...your father is waiting with the rest of clan.

After a while three kits and their mother was heading to clan gathering.

-I called all of you to get there for a very important thing in clan. RockyKit, LimeKit and SmallKit have reached their sixst moon and it's thier time to become apprentices.

Three kits walked closer to their leader.

- RockyKit, from this day you'll be called Rocky**Paw.** Let Star Clan guide your paws on a right path.

After that words whole clan started to pronounce her new name.

- LimeKit, from this day the whole clan will know you as Lime**Paw.** Star Clan, have this apprentice under care of your paws.

- LimePaw! LimePaw! – clan kept repeating her new name.

- SmallKit, from this day your new name will be Small**Paw.** Listen to Star Clan's words and follow warrior code as you should.

Clan repeated her new name all over again.

- BronzeFoot! You'll be menhtor to RockyPaw. Teach her everything you learned from your menhtor.

BronzeFoot came closer to his new apprentice and they stick their noses together.

- LosenEye! You'll become LimePaw's mentor. You are very brave and loyal warrior. Give all of your skills to your new apprentice.

LosenEye rushed to his apprentice and they puted their noses together.

- And DryFlower! You'll teach SmallPaw. You're strong warrior. Teach her all battle skills you have and everything about warrior code.

DryFlower came quick to her new apprentice and they touched their noses.

- I wish you the best on your apprentice duty. This meeting is over. – IrisStar finnished clan meeting and slided to his den.

- Congratulations! – GreyWing looked at her daughters with eyes full of pride.

- We're so proud of you all!- PineTail added.

- Thank you. – RockyPaw, LimePaw and SmallPaw said.

- Well it's now time to start work RockyPaw! – BronzeFoot called his apprentice.

- You're right BronzeFoot....come SmallPaw. – DryFlower nudged her apprentice by paw.

- Can we go with SmallPaw, LosenEye? – LimePaw looked at her mentor with pleasing eyes.

- Alright. – LosenEye looked back. – Are you going with us BronzeFoot?

- Nope, I'll make RockyPaw single training.

- As you want BronzeFoot... – DryFlower started heading to exit of camp. – Let's go everyone! – she ordered.

Chapter 6

- Is BronzeFoot always acting like this? – SmallPaw asked.

- He had really hard childhood.. – DryFlower went on. – His mother was blaming him for his sisters deaths and she died when he was one moon old... other queen became his new mother but she soon died and his sharp father took care of him. – She looked at her apprentice with sad eyes.

- Oh... - SmallPaw looked at her paws. – Where are we going anyway?

- We're going to see other clan's borders. – LosenEye answeared. – Here's the first one...on your left. – He showed territory full of stones and small mountains. – It's StoneClan's territory.

SmallPaw and LimePaw stared their eyes at sharpy sculped terrain.

- Isn't it hard for StoneClan to walk in here? – SmallPaw wondered.

- Their body build makes them move freely on that kind of area. – LosenEye said.

DryFlower moved a bit further.

- Here is FireClan's territory – she pointed by her tail territory on her left side. – Very simmiliar to ours.

Her ear twitched.

- Do you hear that? – she tasted air. – Is that SpruceFeather?

After a while skinny ginger pelt was visible behind the trees.

- Good day SpruceFeather! You've got a lot of water mint I see. – LosenEye noticed.

- I didn't saw that much in moons! Oh! You're showing SmallPaw

and LimePaw clan borders, right? – she looked at two warriors with their apprentices.

- Yes, we are. – DryFlower purred silently.

- Very good. – SpruceFeather said. – Don't forget to show them Night Stones. – she added quickly.

- To show us..what? – LimePaw seemed confused.

- Night Stones. It's a place where four clans go on full-moon for a gathering. It's near LeafClan. – DryFlower said. – Come on. There's no time to waiste.

Four cats headed straight ahead. DryFlower began to walk between large pines. Three other cats followed them.

- We're on a LeafClan territory now. We can't hunt here, ok? – she-cat warrior looked at two apprentices.

SmallPaw and LimePaw nodded.

Their territory is full of trees.

After a while a small white pelt dashed is front of SmallPaw's eyes. It stoped for a while and started to run at her.

- Got you intruder! – white tom jumped at SmallPaw pushing her to the ground.

She got in panic. SmallPaw tried to take oponent off her body. It was almost warrior sized cat. She scratched tom's belly and she rollled two tail-leight away.

Tom yelled in pain and jumped at SmallPaw again scratching her ear. She tried to get off his paws but he was too strong. Her heart started beating really fast

- FeatherPaw no! – a golden she-cat grabbed white tom away from SmallPaw.

SmallPaw got up on her paws, still being in shock.

- What happened here?! – DryFlower runned to her apprentice and two other cats.

Chapter 7

- FeatherPaw why did you attacked her?! – golden warrior asked.

- It isn't her territory! I'm pretty sure she wanted to steal our prey!

- No, I was not! – SmallPaw shouted covering her wounded ear by her paw.

- I was sure that you know how to behave when you see intruder on your territory! I teached you that for moons! – LeafClan warrior looked at her apprentice with eyes full of disapointment and angery.

- We just wanted to show our apprentices Night Stones. – DryFlower said.

- I'm really sorry for FeatherPaw...go to see Night Stones then. – golden warrior turned back to her apprentice. – And you're going back to camp with me! – she walked deeper to her territoy.

As her apprentice started following her, he turned his head back and stared his angry gaze on SmallPaw. Her eyes turned wide and she quickly ran after her clanmates.

- Are you okay sister? Your ear is bleeding. – LimePaw asked.

- Everything is fine. – SmallPaw answeared.

- Here we are. – LosenEye stopped.

Two apprentices looked at place in front of them. It was a small water pool with four tall and flat ended stones dipped in it. Stones were really shiny and dark.

- This...this is amazing! – SmallPaw couldn't stop looking at this beautifull view.

- Yeah, It's even more beautifull at gathering time. – DryFlower said. – By the way....are you hungry? We can teach you how to hunt.

- Oh yes please! – LimePaw answeared with excitation.

- Okay LimePaw, come with me. – LosenEye called his apprentice.

- Follow me SmallPaw. – DryFlower ordered.

- And that's a good crouch! – DryFlower looked at her apprentice – Just don't move your tail....or pray will hear you and it'll ran away.

- Understood. – SmallPaw looked around.

- Are you ready to try to catch your first prey? – DryFlower asked.

SmallPaw nodded. She tasted air and started slowly sneeking to bramble bush.

A mouse!

She waited as the mouse leaved it's hideout. SmallPaw prepared a jump and catched a prey.

- Very good! – DryFlower's voice was full of pride. – What a nice catch!

DryFlower heard a rustle. She followed that sound and after while she came back with a mouse.

- Let's eat it. – SmallPaw said.

She tooked a huge bite of mouse's meat. It was delicious.

- We should find LosenEye and LimePa-

- Here we are! – LimePaw ran out of bushes.

- We can go back to camp now. – LosenEye said.

Four cats followed the same path as they travelled here.

Chapter 8

- It was a long day – DryFlower yawned. – It's already dark...we should head to our nests.

- Yeah. – LosenEye nodded. – See you on traning tommorow LimePaw.

- It was amazing day! – LimePaw said while heading to apprentice's den.

- Oh yeah. – SmallPaw layed on a moss and she started getting into a sleep possition.

- RockyPaw is cleaning elders den. – LimePaw looked at her sister on the next side of camp.

SmallPaw didn't listened to her sister – she was sleeping.

Where I am?

SmallPaw looked around. She was in the forest but it was...diffrent. It was covered in blood and death smell. SmallPaw stood slightly scared. After a while she maked few moves forward.

- Is a-anyone here..? – SmallPaw asked.

No one reply. She decided to go to her camp. Before she putted her paw in the entering she heard a voice comming from the water pool side. She couldn't hear anything so she steeped closer to the pool.

- "SmallPaw, you're the star, the only shining star of hope."Look in the water. – a unknown voice said.

SmallPaw looked in the water as the voice ordered. After a while she saw forest at night in it. Blood was all around. She saw a ginger pelt of a dead cat. It smelled simmiliar but SmallPaw couldn't recognize who is that.

After a while vision of forest went blurry and a leopard head was vissible on water.

- "Do right choises and follow your intulition because you're the star that will save the forest from the leopard claws..." – after that words voice disappeared.

SmallPaw opened her eyes. It was only a dream. It was more like **nightmare**.

Me? A star of hope? Protecting forest from leopard claws... What does that even mean?

She looked around. Everyone was still asleep.

SmallPaw wanted to get back to sleep but then she reminded herself of this dream that she had.

After a while she heard RockyPaw going out. SmallPaw looked as her sister was leaving apprentice's den and camp.

What is she doing? I'll better follow her.

SmallPaw leaved camp silently. She tasted air to find her sister's sent. She followed RockyPaw's sent and once she saw her sister she hided in the nearest bush. Her sister was heading to StoneClan's territory.

RockyKit! Have you lost your mind?!

She wanted to follow her sister but then she smelled StoneClan warrior's sent.SmallPaw ran out of the bush and started running back to StormClan's camp.*I need to get back to camp before sunrise!*

Chapter 9

- LimePaw! – SmallPaw ran to apprentice's den.

- W-What's going on SmallPaw? – LimePaw asked her sister yawning.

- I have something to tell you! It's important! – SmallPaw looked at LimePaw.

- You saw her going on a StoneClan's territory?! – LimePaw couldn't belive her sister's words.

SmallPaw nodded.

- Why does she did that?!

- I have no idea... - SmallPaw answeared.

LimePaw thought for a moment.

- When she get back don't act suspicious. – LimePaw went on – If she'll leave camp at night we'll watch her together.

- Well...okay. – SmallPaw looked back. – Look! RockyPaw is back... - she lowed her voice. – Don't look at her. – she tolded her sister.

Warriors are awaken.

- I'll organize the hunting patrol. – CherryFlight, IrisStar's deputy said. – I'll Take with myself SandPelt, DryFlower, MothFall and...**SmallPaw**.

SmallPaw picked her ears up as she heard her name telled by deputy. She joined the rest of cats that have been forming into a patrol. As the hunting patrol leaved camp she started to walk near her mentor.

- I hope that it won't rain. – DryFlower looked at the dark clouds

that started getting above the forest.

- Yeah, It'l be harder to find smell of prey... – CherryFlight sighed. – Okay SmallPaw tell us what you can smell.

H-huh? I didn't expected this.

Other warriors looked at apprentice.

SmallPaw was stressed. She took a breath.

- I smell s-squirrel. – SmallPaw said not sure if she's right.

- Exactly – deputy said. – We'll go this way to check what we can find. – she leaded cats near a small water pool.

- That was a really good hunting...oh it started to rain. Better let's get back to camp. Come on everyone!

SmallPaw was very happy with prey she catched. It was a really big squirrel. She just couldn't wait to eat it, it smelled tasty. When cats were near the camp SmallPaw saw a simmiliar view like from her vision. She felt really uncomfortable. SmallPaw looked around and then her eyes spotted a ginger pelt like from last night dream.

This...this is SpruceFeather!

She left her clanmates and ran to a cat's body.

- DryFlower! – SmallPaw called her mentor.

Warrior quickly got near her apprentice. SmallPaw nudged medicine cat's body. She taster air and she smelled death.

- Hey S-SpruceFeather....stand u..up! Please! – SmallPaw was nudging body over and over again.

- Death berries.. – DryFlower frowned her muzzle.

- SmallPaw...she's dead. – CherryFlight said it with no emotion in her voice. She tried to control her sadness. Deputy looked at other warriors and showed them to grab SpruceFeather's body.

- The patrol is back!

Every cat that have been in the patrol had it's tail down.

- What happened? – IceFlower looked out of the nursery.

- SpruceFeather is dead. – CherryFlight said. It seemed like the words couldn't pass her throat.

Chapter 10

- StormClan...today we're saying "goodbye" to our medicine cat's apprentice...SpruceFeather. – IrisStar looked at his clan. – She was a great clan member.

SmallPaw looked around the camp. She saw MapleSong-SpruceFeather's mother –crying in her daughter's fur.

It must be really hard for MapleSong since SpruceFeather was her only daughter alive.

- She'll be buried this night. – IrisStar jumped off the Burned Tree.

Eh? That Fast?

- You were the best apprentice... - BrownPool sat next to MapleSong and touched SpruceFeather's cold cheek.

- BrownPool? Did SpruceFeather know about death berries? – DryFlower look at the medicine cat.

- Of course! She avoided them as much as cat is avoiding badgers! – BrownPool answeared in a shaky voice. Why did you asked me about this?

- I smelled them from SpruceFeather's muzzle. – DryFlower closed her eyes.

- They probably killed her. She must mistaken them for something diffrent...

Or someone gave them to SpruceFeather.

Moon was rising. Silverpelt was as always covered in StarClan warriors. SmallPaw was

heading to apprentice's den.

StarClan, I hope that SpruceFeather is with you now.

From outside the den she could hear cats who stayed on short vigil. IrisStar will soon send cats to bury SpruceFeather's body.

SmallPaw opened her eyes. She was sitting near the clear lake. Sky was covered in the clouds. After a while she heard a voice.

- SmallPaw...

- Who is this? – SmallPaw asked. – SpruceFeather i-is this you?

- Look into the water SmallPaw... - a voice ordered.

SmallPaw looked around. There were no one besides her. She looked into the lake. The vision was blurry. She could only see cat pelt moving near the rocky territory.

StoneClan!

After a while the vision turned into another one. This time, SmallPaw saw blurry camp. All members hissing at one. The same one that she saw in first vision. At the end, the last vision was showing Thunderpath and the same cat that she saw in other visions. A monster was comming. It was going straight on a cat and then the vision disappered.

- " No matter what will happen, you must be strong and you must protect your clan and follow what your heart tells you because you're the star that will save the forest from the leopard claws...."

- What? What do you mean by that? What star? What leopard claws? Tell me! – SmallPaw shouted.

There was no answear back. She could only hear her breath, singing birds and the sound of water.

Chapter 11

- Are you nervous about your first gathering? – DryFlower asked SmallPaw.

- M-maybe. – she answeared.

This night was full-moon gathering at the Night Stones. SmallPaw moved after her menthor.

- No need to. – DryFlower said softy. – I'm sure you'll like it soon.

- I'm so exited! – LimePaw whispered to SmallPaw's ear.

- Me too.

As StormClan arivved three other clans were already there.

IrisStar joined other leaders. StormClan mixed quickly with other clans. RockyPaw joined a group of StoneClan's cats.

- Look who's she hanging with – LimePaw murmured with a note of hostility in her voice.

SmallPaw didn't said anything. She looked at RockyPaw and then, she saw LimePaw following her mentor.

I'll just stay in here.

SmallPaw looked around. There were so many cats. Her gaze stopped at a white tom that looked at her surreptitiously.

Oh no it's FeatherPaw!

SmallPaw looked away. She saw IrisStar that was staring at all gathered cats.

- Let the gathering begins! – IrisStar said.

- StormClan is doing fine. It's nearly leaf-bare and our clan is still having a lot of prey. Thanks to StarClan for that. Our clan is only having a one bad information...our medicine cat's apprentice, SpruceFeather joined our warlike ancestors.

Murmurs of compassion spread across the clearing. SmallPaw turned her head and she saw a one StoneClan cat looking a bit nervously.

She ignored it and listened to the leaders again. Then she felt somebodys pelt near her. She looked left and she saw LeafClan's cat that she fought with once.

- You're a pretty strong cat, you know? – he said. – I should've think twice before I attacked you. That wound you gave me still hurts a bit.

SmallPaw heard his voice was warm and pleasant.

- Well uhh...t-thanks? – she felt really awkward.

- LeafClan is fine too. – CitrusStar said. - Our clan finalny won a battle with loners that were invating our camp. We're having two new warriors: HoneyPaw and FeatherPaw are now Honey**Tooth** and Feather**Heart**. And we're having a new medicine cat's apprentice. MintWisker fouded an appenice and it's DaisyPaw.

All cats shouted new names of warriors and an apprentice.

- HoneyFang! FeatherHeart! FlowerPaw!

- So you're a...warrior now? – SmallPaw asked the tom next to her.

- Well yes. – FeatherHeart answeared. –I'm sure you'll become one soon. You're a great cat.

- Uhm...you're great t-too... - SmallPaw was feeling her pelt turing hot.

Why is he talking to me like that? I'm not his clanmate!

After a while SmallPaw noticed that FireClan's leader was talking.

- ...and we'll re-mark our borders with StoneClan. To let them know it's our prey and territory. – HareStar measured leader of StoneClan with a look of hatred.

- We won't give you that part forever! You territory stealers!

Chapter 12

Every cat picked his ears up.

How dare someone stop leaders talk?!

A yellowish with brown spots appentice bristled his fur and looked at FireClan's leader with eyes full of angery.

- HareStar! You know well that this part of territory belonged to us! We can take a prey from there because it was ours! You stealed our territory! FireClan is a bunch of snake-hearted furballs! – the tom apprentice snorted contemptuosly.

- Who do you call snake-hearted furball?! – a she-cat warrior hissed from the crowd.

The clearing was covered in hisses and insults.

- How dare he?! – FeatherHeart snarled – He's just an apprentice!

A brave apprentice in fact.

- LeopardPaw! – CrowStar, leader of StoneClan growled – You're on a gathering! Peacefull gathering! – He looked at HareStar. – I am really sorry for him. Of course our patrols will leave that part of your territory.

- And better make it happen. – HareStar huffed furiously while jumping off FireClan's stone. – Gathering is over.

Cats started to forming back to their clans.

- I've got to go... - FeatherHeart said quickly and leaved SmallPaw.

- I can't belive that someone can be that big mouse-brain! – LimePaw hissed.

- He wanted to protect his territory! I...guess... – RockyPaw said.

SmallPaw looked suspiciously at her siser.

- Protecting or not....it's still leaders business RockyPaw. – LimePaw walked ahead. – Come on! Our clan is leaving.

SmallPaw was looking at RockyPaw till she joined her clanmates. She went after her and joined LimePaw.

- RockyPaw is more suspicious than before... - SmallPaw murmured to her sister

- You're right. – LimePaw nodded. – I'm pretty sure something bad will happen soon.

StormClan was finalny back in camp. SmallPaw felt really tired. A bunch of elders looked out of their den.

- Go to get some rest on your nest. – DryFlower said to her apprentice while going to the warriors den.

A painfull moan woked SmallPaw. She looked around. Everyone in her den were asleep.

She carefully leaved her nest and looked at the side from the noise was comming. BrownPool was half in the nursery, half outside.

- Is everything allright...? – SmallPaw asked uncertainly.

BrownPool raised her head.

- Oh! It's you SmallPaw. Yes, yes. Everything is fine. Nothing to worry about. IceFlower just had another contraction.

SmallPaw looked at IceFlower. The queen had a really big belly.

She must be near her kitting.

- So do you need any help? – SmallPaw looked in medicine cat's eyes.

- No, I can handle it myself. – BrownPool smiled. – But thanks for your intentions. – she added.

How it feels to have own kits? Own cats to care about? Will I be a good mother in the future?

Chapter 13

- No, no. Try to do it again! Put your paw higher this time! Or you wont be able to scratch enemy's throat!

SmallPaw felt so stressed. She couldn't do any battle move right today.

- Come on. – DryFlower said. A warrior jumped on her's apprentice. SmallPaw was pushed to the ground.

Put your paw higher! Put it higher!

She bared her claws and tried to put her paw higher, to reach her menthor's troat. Unsuccessfully.

DryFlower jumped off her apprentice.

- We'll practice it later. It's deffinitly not your good day today. Get up. Maybe hunting will go better. – DryFlower gone ahead.

SmallPaw got up. A cold wind ruffled her fur.

Leaf-bare is comming...

DryFlower followed the squirrel scent she smelled before. A red animal was slowly walking on the frosted grass. Warrior raised in the air. DryFlower was going straight on a squirrel but then, she landed in front of prey.

The creature was scared and wanted to escape to the tree. SmallPaw caught up with the animal with two leaps, killed it with one bite.

- Nice reflex! It slipped out of my paws. Hehe...I'm not that fast now, my old joints won't let me be...

SmallPaw looked at her menthor. DryFlower's muzzle was covered in graying fur and her pelt completly lost it's shine. Her eyes were looking quite tired.

- Old or not...still able to be a warrior. – DryFlower looked at the sky. – Sesons changes, I am getting old. You'll probably be my last apprentice...anyway, let's go and check what we can find near camp.

Two she-cats followed the path near water pool.

Hm? Is this next squirrel?

SmallPaw stopped near a bush.

I can smell two of them.

She crouched and waited for them to leave. A red tail was visible outside the bush.

Oh come on!

One of the squirrels walked out of its hide.

SmallPaw quickly jumped on an animal and scratched it's neck. She joined her menthor that waited for her.

- Did you saw him allready? – LimePaw asked SmallPaw in the entrance of camp.

- Saw who? –SmallPaw was surpriced.

- IceFlower's kit! – LimePaw answeared. – He's such a big and fluffy tom! He's so adorable.

- What's his name?

- IceFlower and SandPelt are naming him right now. Come with me!

- SunKit is a great name for him. – BrownPool smiled while leaving nursery.

- We should give them a lesson!

SmallPaw heard a shout from leader's den. She looked back and saw three warriors talking with IrisStar and CherryFlight.

Leader looked angry. He jumped on a Burned Tree.

- StormClan cats! FireClan exceeded our borders again! We should organize attack!

Chapter 14

- It's time to give them a lesson, a lesson that they'll remember for long time! – IrisStar said loudly.

- Should we take apprentices too IrisStar? – CherryFlight asked leader.

IrisStar stared at three apprentices.

- Yes. It's their time for first battle. – he said. – I'll take MapleSong, SandPelt, DryFlower, NightFur, BronzeFoot, SmallPaw, LimePaw, RockyPaw, CherryFlight.

- When are we leaving? – NightFur asked.

- Now. – IrisStar walked off the Burned Tree and with a swip of tail summoned cats designated to the attack.

Try to remember as much moves as you can.

- Let's go this way...straight to FireClan's camp. – IrisStar ordered.

When cats crossed the fallen tree that was the natural border of FireClan, SmallPaw bristled her fur.

As the first FireClan cats arrived IrisStar stopped.

- What are you doing in our camp?! - a spotted tom hissed.

- FireClan doesn't care about borders? You think forest belongs to you?! – IrisStar asked defiantly.

- It's a misunderstanding. – a pale she-cat snorted.

- Oh ho ho, you know well it's not, JuniperClaw! – CherryFlight stood face to face with FireClan's deputy.

- We don't have time for your pointless excuses...StormClan attack!

IrisStar jumped on a tom that standed near him.

CherryFlight hissed and threw herself at sleek pale she-cat. She clawed at her opponent's face. After a while grey tom rolled at SmallPaw. He got up fast and pushed SmallPaw to the ground. She tried to free herself but the oponent were so strong.

„Put your paw higher..."

She rasised her paw and smashed tom's throat. She cutted cat's neck, leaving a deep and terrible bleeding wound. Stream of blood covered her fur. Tom yowled with a loud grunt, as if his throat was torn.

SmallPaw got up on her paws. She looked at her clanmates, bleeding and fighting. She saw LimePaw biting a small brown tom's leg. Then she felt claws in her back. It was a black, green eyed she-cat.

- It's time to feel FireClan's claws! – she hissed while scratching SmallPaw's back.

SmallPaw broke free from enemy's paws and sank her claws into she-cat's eye. She leaved black cat and looked at her left. She saw DryFlower losing strenght to fight with a rusty warrior who was constantly giving her strokes.

- Back off! – SmallPaw growled and threw tom away from her menthor.

- Thanks StarClan you were here SmallPaw. - DryFlower quickly said.

- Retreat! – CherryFlight shouted with a cracking voice while grabing IrisStar with SandPelt. The leader was bleeding hardly.

RockyPaw gived last scratches to she-cat she fought with and joined her clanmates.

When cat's were back in camp BrownPool was waiting with herbs.

- Take IrisStar! – CherryFlight said to medicine cat. – He got a deep

wound!

Chapter 15

After some time BrownPool ran out of her den to CherryFlight.

- IrisStar lost his live. – she said.

- How much he still has left...?

- Only one...

SmallPaw looked at BrownPool that was clearing CherryFlight wounds.

- BrownPool? Maybe I can help you? I've got only couple of scratches. – LimePaw asked.

- Well if you want – BrownPool said. – Go to my den and bring more spider webs, and when you'll be back put some calendula on DryFlower's left hind leg.

LimePaw nodded and went to medicine cat's den.

- Allright, let's see your cuts...looks like you're bleeding hard...that much blood on your fur! – BrownPool looked slightly terrified at SmallPaw.

- Well it's not my blood... - SmallPaw said. – It's the blood from grey tom I've attacked. He's throat was bleeding hardly. I've only got a wound that hurts on my back.

BrownPool looked at apprentice's cut on back.

- Come with me to my den. I'll take some-

- BrownPool! IrisStar wants o talk with CherryFlight! His...his cut is still bleedig! – LimePaw shouted from the medicine cat's den.

CherryFlight had her tail down. She quickly ran into the den.

- SmallPaw come with me, you'll wait a while in my den. – BrownPool said to apprentice while following deputy. – Thank you LimePaw. Go and put calendula on DryFlower's leg. And check everyone for serious injuries. – she said to LimePaw that was standing in the entrance of medicine den.

- Wait here, I'll change IrisStar's dressing. – medicine cat showed SmallPaw a moss nest. SmallPaw layed on it and started to think about why IrisStar wanted to talk with CherryFlight?

- You can't just give up now! Like a warrior is fighting for it's clan you need to fight for your clan!

- CherryFlight is right IrisStar. You have a last live that you need to give to your clan. – BrownPool said. – You can make it IrisStar. You need to rest here. Your wound is deep and it need to rebuild. What do you think? Why StarClan didn't take you to them now? They want you to stay for StormClan!

SmallPaw was listening the conversation. She saw LimePaw taking some herbs.

- How is DryFlower? – SmallPaw asked her sister.

- I'm afraid she won't be able to hunt or train you for now.

LimePaw grabbed couple spider webs and poppy seeds.

- I know what to do. – IrisStar said. He standed up. – Help me reach the Burned Tree.

- StormClan! – leader spoke from the Burned Tree. – Our battle with FireClan bringed us defeat. I wanted to say that some of us got hardy injured. I...have my last live. CherryFlight will take care of you, StormClan.

- Is...is IrisStar going to die? – SunKit whispered to his mother in the nursery.

IceFlower didn't said anything. She just looked at the leader by dull eyes.

Chapter 16

- Why can't we practice fight? What if we'll have to attack again? – RockyPaw snorted in disgust. It's been two moons since StormClan fought with FireCan.

- You know that our clan needs prey more than battle skills now. It's leaf-bare. – BronzeFoot, RockyPaw's menthor looked resentfull.

They don't have good relations as apprentice and menthor...

- You and RockyPaw can check here for prey. I'll go with SmallPaw to see if we can find something closer to the water pool. – CherryFlight turned back and showed SmallPaw to follow her. DryFlower was still too injured to get back to menthoring SmallPaw and IrisStar decided that CherryFliht will become her substitute menthor.

Patrol was going back to camp. Only prey they had was a lank vole that Smallpaw catched.

CherryFlight saw second hunting patrol and she nodded a greting.

- Is this for IceFlower? – CherryFlight asked SandPelt that had a sparrow in his muzzle.

- Yes. – he said. – She need to feed SunKit but she don't have enough milk. He's a strog kit and he's heating pretty much. – he closed his eyes. – How much prey do you have?

- Only one vole... - CherryFlight sighed.

SmallPaw looked at the deputy. Despite her's long and thick fur, bones were visible under her skin. SmallPaw now realised that her belly was empty for days.

- Take my prey to camp. I'll look for something else.

CherryFlight turned her head.

- Really SmallPaw? Do you want anyone to help?

- I can handle it myself. – SmallPaw smiled.

- Well okay. – deputy turned back. – Let's go back to camp.

SmallPaw was walking through the forest. Her paws were cold. She couldn't smell any prey. Then, she heard a movement. She stood still. A small pelt moved in the snowed bush. It jumped out licking it's paw.

A squirrel!

SmallPaw watched closely as it moved further. She crouched and started to sneak closer. She was following it for a while and decided to do a jump on it. Her paw nearly hit the animal but it ran away. She fell awkwardly on the snow. She blinked to get snow off her eyelashes and suddenly she saw a white paw pushing the squirrel to the ground. She taster air and she smelled LeafClan.

- It kinda...slipped out of your paws. – the cat said.

SmallPaw recognized cat's voice. It was FeatherHeart.

- Uhh...may-maybe.. – SmallPaw said embarrassed.

- Are you allright..? You look so...so scrawny.

- It's just leaf-bare! There's lack of prey! – SmallPaw growled. She looked at her body. She was so scrawny and unkempt compared to LeafClan warrior.

- Take it. – FeatherHeart gave her a squirrel. – It's yours. – he smiled slightly.

SmallPaw grabbed prey and walked back to her camp.

Chapter 17

- It's the biggest squirrel I've ever saw in the leaf-bare!

Couple of elders started commenting SmallPaw's catch. She smiled as she saw other clanmates looking at her prey.

- Oh SmallPaw! Can you change our nests and give us extra feathers? It's so cold!

SmallPaw scowled her face. She knew well who was calling her.

- Of course SnakeFang! – she tried to avoid old she-cat's gaze. SmallPaw hated her. SnakeFang always gave her quests and critique everything she did.

SmallPaw grabbed first moss nest and she putted it outside the den.

- Can I help you?

She heard a quiet mew. She looked at a yellowish furball near her.

- SunKit? What are you doing outside the nursery? – SmallPaw asked surprisedly.

- IceFlower let me to go out and play in snow...and then I saw you. Can I help? Please, please, pleeeease?

SmallPaw hesitaded.

- I guess you can-

- Thank you! Tell me what to do!

SmallPaw showed a small hill made of feathers.

- You'll give me coupe when I'll ask for some, Is that allright?

SunKit blinked.

- Yeah!

After a while of great team work nests were done.

- Phew, okay that's all SunKit, you can go back to the nur-

SmallPaw stared at SunKit that took a nap on old nests. She grabbed kit by neck and walked to the nursery.

- IceFlower. Here's SunKit. He fell asleep.

A queen was ending her meal.

- Thank you SmallPaw. I'm pretty sure when he'll woke up he'll want my milk. He's very voracious. – IceFlower laught.

SmallPaw putted kit next to it's mother's belly. She smiled and leaved the nursery.

- Hey SmallPaw! Do you want to eat with me?

– Limepaw was sitting under birch tree's shade.

SmallPaw joined her sister.

- Another patrol just got back. They catched some mice.

- Nobody is clan needs it more? – SmallPaw asked.

- No. – LimePaw looked at SmallPaw. – Your squirrel was big enough to feed elders, DryFlower and IrisStar. – she said proudly.

SmallPaw looked around the camp.

- Have you asked RockyPaw about eating?

LimePaw nervously got on her paws.

- I haven't seen her anywhere in the camp...

She leaved clan again! She...she must be with those StoneClan's cats!

- I'm pretty sure she's with StoneClan cats. – SmallPaw whispered to

LimePaw's ear.

- Should we spy on her? – LimePaw gived SmallPaw a worried gaze.

SmallPaw nodded.

Chapter 18

When nobody was looking, two apprentices leaved camp.

- But what if we'll got caught? – LimePaw stopped.

SmallPaw didn't said anything. She just showed her sister to follow her. They followed path along the frozen water pool.

- SmallPaw! To the bush! Quick!

SmallPaw heard her sister's voice. She realized that she was so near to StoneClan's border. She quickly followed her sister's voice and hided in the bush.

- Can you see RockyPaw? – LimePaw asked.

SmallPaw growled quietly.

- Who is she with?

- LeopardPaw! – SmallPaw hissed.

- What i she doing with him?! Does she completly lost her bra-

- Hush! I can't hear what they're talking about!

LimePaw looked at her paws. She stayed quiet from this moment.

- When will you finally do it?! – LeopardPaw hissed at RockyPaw.

She closed her eyes.

- Next high-sun. – she answared.

SmallPaw felt LimePaw moving in the bush.

- Hold still!

- I can't! I stomped on a thorn! – Limepaw mewed.

The bush in which the two she-cats hid rustled.

- It's probably my clan's patrol! I've got to go! – RockyPaw leaved StoneClan's apprentice and ran back to camp's side.

LeopardPaw looked with contempt after the she-cat and then he got back on his territory.

- What is she going to do next high-sun? – LimePaw looked at SmallPaw.

- I don't know. We should get back to camp....BrownPool should see your thorn. -

SmallPaw headed toward the clan. LimePaw limped after her.

- BrownPool! BrownPool are you here?

A brown medicine cat looked out of elder's den.

- What is it LimePaw?

- I have a thorn in my paw! It hurts! – LimePaw squeaked like a kit.

- Allright wait for me in my den. – BrownPool said.

SmallPaw looked as her sister slowly walked to the den. She felt medicine cat sitting near her.

- DryFlower wanted me to tell you that she's still not able to get back to her dutys.

SmallPaw forgot how injured was her menthor. DryFlower was hardly doing a step.

- What about IrisStar..? How is he doing? – SmallPaw looked at leader's den entrance.

BrownPool closed her eyes. She only sighed.

Medicine cat got on her paws.

- I hope he'll be fine. – BrownPool tried to smile to SmallPaw.

BrownPool's eyes were still filled with worriness. She backed to her den.

Oh StarClan. Keep IrisStar in your care.

RockyPaw sat near apprentice's den. She lookeed at the enterance of camp.

- Aren't you're going to sleep? - LimePaw asked her sister.

RockyPaw just gave her a long gaze and entered the den.

Chapter 19

- Traitor!

Whole StormClan's camp was covered in hisses.

- How dare you?! You're not worth to be called our clanmate! – couple of warrors shouted.

RockyPaw was sitting in the clearing under the Burned Tree. Every clan member was hissing and sitting, fur brisstled.

- I don't need to be called your clanmate! I don't want to! I don't want to belong to such a weak clan as StormClan is! – RockyPaw snarled, showing her teeth.

- You worthless furball! – SmallPaw dipped her claws in a half frosted dirt.

LimePaw hissed at RockyPaw.

So that's what she was planning!

SmallPaw looked sideways. Her gaze stopped at PineTail and GreyWing. Her mother cried while hissing. It must be really hard for her that her own kit is leaving clan she was born in. PineTail was looking back. His face was sparing no emotinos. Only angery and pain. He putted his tail on his partner's back.

- What is StormClan?! A bunch of cats that lose battle with FireClan! A clan that is easiest to beat!

With every word that her sister said, SmallPaw felt like her heart was breaking into peaces. RockyPaw renounced her sisters, her mother, father, clan.

- Can't you see what we did for you?! We were always here for you! – GreyWing's voice was breaking when she tried talk to her daughter.

" No matter what will happen, you must be strong and you must protect your clan and follow what your heart tells you because you're the star that will save the forest from the leopard claws...."

The words from the weird omen she had ringed in her ears. She looked at the clearing. It was looking just like from her vision.

- I have a better place in StoneClan! It's a way better clan than StormClan and your-

- Enough RockyPaw! – IrisStar walked off his den, hardly getting on his paws. – You don't know what you're doing! Leaving family, friends, clanmates... If it's your decision, do it then. If you think StoneClan will give you more than we can, leave now! There's no place in StormClan for you! – leader growled. He gave apprentice a look full of angery but also full with sadness.

RockyPaw backed to the leader. She looked last time at hissing clanmates and leaved StormClan's camp.

BrownPool looked quickly at RockyPaw and then she stared at SmallPaw. SmallPaw joined PineTail and GreyWing, LimePaw joined after her. PineTail licked his partner on head to make her feel better but she shaked and closed her eyes. SmallPaw looked at other clanmates that have looked at them. She saw IrisStar looking at GreyWing.

- GreyWing, it's hard for you...i-it's hard for us. We've lost our kit, our daughter...but we must be strong... - PineTail putted his muzzle on GreyWing's head. Tear fell from his cheek.

GreyWing looked at her other daughters who have sat near her. Then, she looked at her paws. Her eyes were very glassy, her heart filled with pain.

- She's not my daughter...not anymore...

Chapter 20

Moons have passed, many things changed. RockyPaw leaved StormClan and died on Thunderpath, DryFlower moved to the elder's den beacuse of her injury and age, LimePaw become medicine cat's apprentice, SunKit was made apprentice, he's Sun**Paw** now.

- SmallPaw! Would you like to join CherryFlight's border patrol?

SmallPaw turned her head. She saw a yellowish apprentice. She smiled and walked to SunPaw.

- Of course. – SmallPaw said.

- We'll check border with FireClan first. – CherryFlight ordered.

- Do you think FireClan is allright now? HareStar said on last gathering that they're having Greencough. – SunPaw asked SmallPaw.

- I don't really know. – she asweared quickly.

- What can you smell here SunPaw? – NightFur, a black tabby tom asked his apprentice.

An apprentice took a breath.

- Only StormClan scent. – he said after a while.

- Good. – CherryFlight commented SunPaw. – We should re-mark our borders, make our scent stronger.

Patrol was checking last border. The day was slowly ending.

- Now we can go back to camp. – Cherryflight said.

- I love being an apprentice! – SunPaw seemed really happy about doing his dutys, doing clan needs.

After a while SmallPaw felt like something is walking near her. It wasn't any of her clanmates. She looked around to check what's that but only thing she saw was a couple of trees. She picked her ears up and slightly bristled her fur.

She still had a feeling that something is folowing her. SmallPaw focused her gaze on the trees. She was terrified. There was a rusty pelt moving on sleek black legs.

Oh no! A fox!

SmallPaw didn't moved. She was looking at the animal that tried craftily sneak near her.

CherryFlight looked back and she saw SmallPaw. Then the animal jumped from behind the trees and ran to deputy.

No! Leave her!

SmallPaw ran after the fox. Rusty pelted animal was allready attacking CherryFlight.

- Leave her! – SmallPaw lunged at the enemy. She scratched it's eye. Animal was furiosly biting the air. It tried to bit apprentice's paw but SmallPaw moved it and hit it's throat.

Apprentice rolled on her back as fox tried to bite her. She smashed it's jaw with her hind legs. Animal moved it's head and after a while jumped at it's oponent. SmallPaw fell on her back. She felt fox's claws in her shoulders.

SmallPaw looked back at her clanmates. SunPaw wanted to help her but his menthor stopped him. SmallPaw got back again to her fight. Fox stared at her with a look of angry eyes. SmallPaw broke free from her oponent paws and pushed animal onto the groud. She bited fox's neck. Animal wanted to give apprentice some scratched but it closed it's eyes and fell limply on the ground.

Chapter 21

- T-that was incredible! – SunPaw looked at SmallPaw.

Patrol was back in camp. CherryFlight and NightFur entered IrisStar's den to tell him about the patrol.

- Are you hardly injured? – Lime**Leaf** asked her sister.

- I'm fine... - SmallPaw answeared.

LimeLeaf was made a full-fledged medicine cat moon ago. She become a very good medic for clan.

- I'll check your wounds anyway. – LimeLeaf licked her sister's cheek. – Come.

- Let all the cats old enough to catch prey get near the Burned Tree!

- Okay I'm done now. Go and join others. It must be something important. – LimeLeaf blinked to SmallPaw. Appretice leaved medicine cat's den. She sat on the clearing near her mother.

- What's going on? – SmallPaw asked.

- You'll know soon. – GrayWing licked her head.

- StormClan cats. I've called you here to announce a new warrior. One of our apprentice killed a fox for safety of her clanmates. – IrisStar looked at the gathered clan. – Come foreward SmallPaw.

SmallPaw made her eyes wide. She was so surprised and kinda scared. She looked at her mother and father that smiled to her. Apprentice made few steps to the Burned Tree.

- SmallPaw, do you promise to be loyal to your clan and protect it for all the cost? – leader asked SmallPaw.

- I promise. – she answeared.

- I, IrisStar, with the power of StarClan makes you a warrior. From this day you'll be known as Small**Fur**. Our clan welcomes you as a full-fledged warrior.

IrisStar carefully and slowly walked off the Burned Tree. He put his muzzle on SmallFur's neck and she licked his shoulder.

- SmallFur, SmallFur, SmallFur!

SmallFur felt really proud of herself as the clan shouted her new name.

- I am so proud of you, SmallFur.

A she-cat turned her head. SmallFur was so happy when she saw her old menthor – DryFlower.

- Thank you... - new warrior said. – How is your leg?

DryFlower purrred.

- It doesn't hurt much but I won't get back to full activity.

As two she-cat's were talking a group of cats sat near SmallFur. It was GreyWing, PineTail, LimeLeaf, CherryFlight and SunPaw.

- Congratulations my dear. – GreyWing layed her muzzle on he daughter's head.

PineTail putted his tail on SmallFur's neck.

- Congratulations SmallFur. Let StarClan guide you on your warrior path. – LimeLeaf licked her sister's cheeck.

- So you're leaving apprentice den...it'll be boring without you. – SunPaw sighed.

SmallFur gigged.

- We'll see each other on patrols – she said.

Apprentice smiled toSmallFur and backed to hismenthor.

Chapter 22

IrisStar decided to celebrate this day. Two extra patrols catched more prey to have enough for whole clan.

SmallFur was eating a mouse. Some warriors were talking about how she killed fox, her mother was proudly looking at her while talking with PineTail, LilyKit and RowanKit –BeamCloud's kits – basing on warrior's talks tried to re-create fox's and SmallFur's battle.

SmallFur looked at the left side of camp and she saw a blurry pelt looking at her with sad eyes. When warrior tried to look closer, pelt disappeared.

When it started getting dark, cats were going to their nests. SmallFur took a place in the entrance of StormClan's camp. It was her time to sat vigil as a new warrior.

- SmallFur.

SmallFur looked around. A ginger pelt covered in stars walked slowly to a warrior.

- SpruceFeather? Is that you?

- Yes, SmallFur – she-cat answeared.

- But what are you doing here? Am I dreaming?

SpruceFeather flipped her tail.

- I want to show you something. – she said. – Follow me.

SmallFur followed star cat. They stopped in a central part of StormClan's teritory.

- Look at the sky. – ginger she-cat said.

SmallFur raised her head. Night sky was covered in StarClan warriors as always.

- You're a warrior now, SmallFur. From this day your life will change.

SmallFur halfy listened to medicine cat. She was still staring at the sky. She saw four stars moving closer to her and then they stopped.

- What are they? – she asked.

SpruceFeather didn't answeared.

- " You have to trust your heart but stay loyal to your clan."

SmallFur looked at SpruceFeather.

- Can I ask you something? – she said.

- Yes? – SpruceFeather looked at she-cat warrior.

- What all of those omens means?

- You need to find it out yourself, SmallFur.

After this words, SpruceFeather dissapeared.

- No, SpruceFeather! What do you mean by that? Get back here!

- Is everything okay, SmallFur? – SandPelt asked her.

- Hm? Oh! Yes yes. I just want to go out. – she answeared.

- Allright. – he turned. – I'm just making sure.

SmallFur walked near LeafClan territory. She sat for a while and looked at old barn near LeafClan. She closed her eyes and she reminded of her meeting with SpruceFeather.

What all of this means? Those four stars...loyality to clan. Is it possibile that I'm making something wrong? What is it? And how to change it? And what about previous omens? Star of hope....leopard claws....forest in need...

- Are you looking for someone?

Chapter 23

SmallFur jumped as she heard a voice. She bristled her fur.

- Hey it's just me, FeatherHeart.

- Don't scare me like that! – she hissed at LeafClan warrior.

- What are you doing here anyway? – he asked and walked closer to SmallFur.

- Why do you want to know that?! – she hissed.

- Calm down, SmallPaw.

- SmallFur...

A LeafClan tom looked with surpricedly at SmallFur.

- Congratlations. – he said in a joyfull mew.

- Yeah, thanks... - SmallFur said annoyed.

She took a breath. Tom was still looking at her, a bit stressed.

- Don't have anything better to do than watching me? – SmallFur asked nervously.

LeafClan warrior looked at his paws. He sighed and then made a step to SmallFur.

- SmallFur, I..k-kinda like you...more.

SmallFur was shocked. She felt her pelt turning hot as the tom looked at her.

- I want to be with you, SmallFur. – he sat next to StormClan she-cat.

What am I supposed to say?! I kinda like him t-too but...we're from

other clans!

- I love you too. – she said after a while. – But we're from other clans! It's inconsistent with the warrior code! – she slightly cried.

- Our relationship need to be in the conspiration. – FeatherHeart whipered in SmallFur's ear.

SmallFur hesitaded for a moment. She wanted to be with FeatherHeart but he was from the other clan. She felt so broke.

- Will you come here this sunset? – tom asked.

SmallFur nodded. She stuck her nose into LeafClan's warrior thick and soft fur.

She decided to get back to camp. First, to clean LeafClan's smell from her fur she swum in the water pool. When she reached the other side she saw drops of blood showing a way to some bushes. SmallFur walked off the water and followed the path. In a half of it she saw a grey pelt laying in the bush.

- IrisStar!

She quickly ran closer. Leader's old wound was still active. It was bleeding. IrisStar was coughing powerlessly.

- SmallFur..go..go for BrownPool and...ack! CherryFlight!

SmallFur was terrified. She shaked from the shock and followed way to the camp.

Medicine cat was sitting in the middle of camp.

- BrownPool! – SmallFur shouted from the entrance.

BrownPool turned her head.

- Have you seen IrisStar? I wanted to see his wound.. – medicine cat gived SmallFur a worried gaze.

- He's in the bushes! He want me to take you and CherryFlight! –

SmallFur looked for deputy.

- Where is he?! – CherryFlight ran out of her den.

- Come with me!

Chapter 24

IrisStar still coughed and bleed, losing his strength.

- We're here IrisStar! – BrownPool crouched next to leader.

- Put those webs aw..away...it's my time. – IrisStar coughed.

SmallFur wanted lo leave deputy, medicine cat and leader. IrisStar doesn't told her to stay with him.

- Stay here SmallFur.. – he said.

SmallFur sat near BrownPool.

- CherryFlight...you are a very loyal deputy...you...will...be a great leader of S-StormClan.. – IrisStar was hardly breathing. – It was great to have such good medicine cat as y..you BrownPool... - leader smiled. – I'll watch StormClan rising from...Star..Clan... - IrisStar closed his eyes and did his last breath.

There was silence. CherryFlight showed SmallFur to take IrisStar's body to camp.

- I-I hope you'll fin...find peace in StarClan... - NarcissusDawn, IrisStar's partner sobbed. IrisStar was whole life for her. Her Barents were lorens and they leaved her near StormClan. IrisStar found her when he was an apprentice. They didn't have kits, because NarcissusDawn was sterile, they had each other.

- He was a great leader and friend... - LimeLeaf said.

SmallFur sat somewhere in the camp. She looked at her clanmates sadly saling things about their great leader that passed away.

- He live pretty long after getting that wound...I was a kit when injured cats were back... - SunPaw walked near IrisStar's laying body.

SmallFur reminded herself of fight with FireClan. She dipped her claws in the grass.

Those furballs will pay for what they did to IrisStar!

- CherryFlight...we should go to the MoonTrunk-

- No BrownPool! I...I want to stay with IrisStar...!

- But CherryFlight....StormClan need a leader...

CherryFlight looked at the ground. Tears fell from her muzzle.

- Let's go then... - she said.

BrownPool passed between other clan cats.

SmallFur followed her and Chllight by her gaze. Deputy turned and looked at SmallFur, later at IrisStar and then leaved.

- We all will miss you, IrisStar... - SmallFur whispered and closed her eyes.

Sky turned black. Moon light fell straight on IrisStar's body and NarcissusDawn that layed next to it.

- Are you going to stay on a vigi? – LimeLeaf asked her sister.

SmallFur raised her head. She was going tosty "yes" but then, she reminded herself of a meeting with FeatherHeart.

- I....would like to go for a walk...alone.

- Oh..okay.. – medicine cat turned back.

SmallFur looked at the sky.

I'm late!

She quickly leaved camp and followed path from morning.

Chapter 25

When she finalny came she faced silence.

- FeatherHeart?

- I'm here. – tom walked off the bush. – You're quite late...something happened?

SmallFur fell in the wave of sadness.

Should I tell him? His from other clan! But I trust him...

SmallFur's emotions took her over.

- I-IrisStar died today....after our fight with FireClan IrisStar got a very deep wound that was really toughly recovering and opening from time to time...and...he lost a lot of blood today because cut opened today and....and..

- I'm really sorry for you, SmallFur... - FeatherHeart sat next to SmallFur and

wrapped his tail around his StormClan partner. SmallFur closed her eyes.

I love you so much FeatherHeart...

Why we must be from ot he clans? I want to be with him...but I can't leave my clan.

- It's getting dark...I should go-

- Stay with me this night, SmallFur. – he walked to the bush. – Come with me, there's enough place for us.

SmallFur looked at her paws. It was getting cold and she had a quite long travel back to her clan. She entered the bush. Tom showed her to lay next to him.

- FeatherHeart... - she said after a while laying with LeafClan cat.

- What is it, SmallFur?

- I'm not sure if we're doing the right thing. – she sighed. – I love you but...we shouldn't be with each other.

- What are you talking about? –FeatherHeart looked surpriced at she-cat next to him. – I know it's quite stressing that you're Hanning with a cat from the other clan bt hey, I'm here for you. No matter what will happen I will protect you even for the cost of my own life.

Trust me, everything will be fine. – he smiled to cheer up SmallFur.

- You're right FeatherHeart. – SmallFur licked toms's muzzle. FeatherHeart licked her back.

- Nothing will seperate us! – warrior got on his paws. – I will protect us even fro- Ouch!

- Watch out for twigs next time...mousebrain. – SmallFur gigged as FeatherHeart hit the twig

that was above his head. He irritated got back to his laying possition. SmallFur looked at the hole that was showing a part of night sky.

- Look! – she nudged FeatherHeart by paw. – Do you see this two big stars?

- Yes. – he mewed while staring at two lights shining at him and his mate. - Maybe tey represent us? – he licked SmallFur's cheek.

SmallFur was quite sleepy. She was closing her eyes from time to time.

I feel so good with him by my side. He is a great cat and mate.

- Yawn...

- I guess you should get some sleep. – FeatherHeart noticed.

- Don't talk to me like to a kit! – she snarled to white tom.

- You quite act like one. – he laught.

- Ughh...you're really a mousebrain! – she hit LeafClan warrior.

- Okay, okay. – FeatherHeart was still laughing. – Let's say you act like an apprentice.

SmallFur silently growled and backed on the other side. After a while tom putted his paw on SmallFur's belly.

- Goodnight my dear. – he whispered.

- Goodnight...

Chapter 26

- It's time to choose a new deputy. – CherryStar said.

- Where were you at night, SmallFur?

SmallFur whiped her head.

- Well SunPaw...I was...watching stars...to see IrisStar – she said something that she got in her mind, hoping that apprentice won't ask more questions.

- Oh! Oh yeah. – SunPaw looked at CherryStar. – I wonder who will become the new deputy.

- The new deputy of StormClan is...**NightFur**! I say it in the front of StarClan and of course, IrisStar.

Black tom looked shocked.

- I promise to be great deputy, CherryStar. – he bowed his head.

- I think you should make RowanKit and LilyKit apprentices. SunPaw is having too much work and have no time for training.

- I guess you're right, NightFur... - CherryFlight said. – They're almost six moons old. Tommorow I'll make them apprentices. – she walked to her den.

- CherryStar!

- What is that, LimeLeaf?

- I have something to tell you...really important.

CherryStar blinked twice.

- Allright, we'll talk in my den.

SmallFur who sitted near heard that coversation.

What is that? What LimeLeaf wants to talk about?

SmallFur tried to sneak to the den and hear what medicine cat wanted to talk about with leader but then, she ran into DryFlower.

- You don't want to eavesdrop them, do you?

- Ughh...n-no! – SmallFur answeared with embarrassment.

Elder she-cat laught.

- You're just like me when I was apprentice. I was always looking for-

- CherryStar! BrownPool! LimeLeaf! There's a she-cat from FireClan kitting near the water pool! – SunPaw shouted from the entrance.

LimeLeaf quickly got on her paws, in the same time BrownPool ran out of her den with herbs.

- Where is she? – CherryStar walked to SunPaw.

- Near the water pool! Two kits are already born! Let's go quick!

Three cats leaved the camp. SmallFur walked to her then but she was stopped by LimeLeaf.

- Are you okay sister? You're looking more stressed and tired since your warrior ceremony...

- I'm fine...I just...can't handle the death of IrisStar... - SmallFur lied.

- He was great leader...but clan needs to live...now CherryStar took his place.

- Is the FireClan queen and her kits okay?

- Yes LimeLeaf. It's FernLeaf, that she-cat who joined FireClan.

- Uhu! How are her kits?

- Good, they're all strong and beautifull. And she's leaving tommorow to make it clear.

LimeLeaf smiled and walked to the fresk-kill pile.

Chapter 27

- From this day you'll be known as Rowan**Paw**. – CherryStar looked at the gathered cats. – PineTail, you'll be RowanPaw's menthor.

SmallFur raised her head as she heard her father's name. She was so happy that after such a long time he can mentor apprentice again. PineTail walked to his new apprentice and they sticked their noses together.

- And LilyKit. You're now Lily**Paw**. SmallFur! You'll menthor LilyPaw. It's your time to get an apprentice.

SmallFur was positive shocked. She quickly ran to her apprentice and sticked her nose with LilyPaw.

- I promise to be the best. – LilyPaw whispered while looking into her menthor's eyes.

- I'm sure you will. – SmallFur smiled.

- Let StarClan light your path to become warriors. – CherryStar walked to her den. – Meeting is over.

- We're so proud of you LilyPaw! – BeamCloud – mother LilyPaw and RowanPaw – walked to LilyPaw with ThornFur – their father.

- Are you proud of me too...? – RowanPaw asked, hoping for joyfull gaze of her father, but he only looked at her and glowled quietly.

- ThornFur! – BeamCloud whispered to her mate. – Just act like you're happy with that. – she rolled her eyes.

ThornFur gave his daughter a cold look and walked to warriors den.

- We're happy that you've become apprentices. – BeamCloud said coldly and walked after her mate.

- Come with me RowanPaw. – PineTail said. – You don't want to

miss your first quest, do you?

- Of course I don't! I'm comming! – RowanPaw followed her menthor, her face was covered in a shadow of sadness.

- We should go too, LilyPaw. Follow me. – SmallFur said to her apprentice.

SmallFur took LilyPaw to see borders. They were walking near the water pool. LilyPaw stopped and stared at the fishes that were swimming near the edge. SmallFur sitted next to her. While sitting she felt an ache in her belly.

And that's what happen when you didn't eat from morning...

- Let's move ahead! We need to see orders before sunset! – SmallFur said jokely.

- This is our border with StoneClan.

- I've heard the rumors that one of StormClan cat's leaved clan and joined StoneClan. – LilyPaw said.

That words reminded SmallFur of her sister RockyPaw that betrayed StormClan and joined StoneClan.

- Yes...there was a cat that did it... - SmallFur moped foreward. – Come to see another border.

- That was a great day, SmallFur!

- Glad to hear it, LilyPaw. – SmallFur smiled. – Let's go back to camp.

As two she_cts came back to camp SmallFur heard a shout:

- What have you done?!

Chapter 28

- I-I'm sorry! – brown tabby she-cat cried.

- You're a disappointment to us! – ThornFur growled.

- What happener here?! – PineTail ran to his apprentice, covering her and standing face to face with her parents.

- That stupid cat nearly killed that FireClan's queen! – BeamCloud bristled her fur.

- H-How could I know i-it was poisoned?! – RowanPaw cried harder in her menthor's fur.

- What was poisoned? – PineTail asked with calm and soft voice.

- That mouse I've catched!

- But I'm okay now... - FernLeaf said. – There's no reason for words like that.

- Shut up and go back to your clan! – ThornFur hissed.

FernLeaf took four of her kits and leaved StormClans camp.

- You two just need to stop! – SmallFur growled at BeamCloud and ThornFur.

ThornFur gave her murdering look and walked to fresh-kill pile. BeamCloud stared at RowanPaw and then walked awal.

- It's okay now, RowanPaw. – PineTail putted RowanPaw closer to his furry pelt to make her feel warm and safe.

LilyPaw walked to her sister and licked her cheeck.

- How can they say such a things to her? – SmallFur talked to her father while eating a squirrel.

- I don't really know... - PineTail sighed. – I was so glad when GreyWing told me I'm going to be a father. I can't imagine me saying that kind of words to you or any other of my kits. I love all of you.

- Even RockyPaw...? – SmallFur hesitated before asking it but she decided to do it.

- Even her. Your mother absolutly hate her for what she did but I still love her. Of course, her words hurt me but she was my daughter.

PineTail is a great father and warrior...

- Okay. – he standed up. – I need to go on a patrol. - he said.

SmallFur watched as her father walked to cats that were ready to go on a patrol.

- Guess I'll go to get some sleep. – SmallFur walked to warriors den.

SmallFur was walking on a wet grass. Drops of water were falling from her fur. Black sky was covered in bright stars. She saw a white pelt behind some bushes.

- FeatherHeart? – she took few steps to the bushes and then the pelt dissappeared.

- "Time will fly, feelings will dissappear...problems will come with sadness and fear"

SmallFur listened to words. She felt lost.

- " You need to make a decision and choose your path because you're the star of hope that wil save forest from the leopard claws"

Then, everything dissappeared and four stars showed on the sky. One was glowing harder than other three.

SmallFur woke up. It was nearly sunrise. She decided to do a walk through camp.

Chapter 29

- It's enough training for today. – SmallFur was taking few breaths.

- Are you okay SmallFur? You seem really tired last few days.

- I'm fine. Nothing to worry about. - she said. – Go back to camp, BlackEar should be organizing hunting patrol now.

LilyPaw walked back to camp, sometimes looking at her menthor.

I should go back to camp too .

SmallFur walked slowly. She covered her belly by her tail. She knew well what was happening. She was expecting kits, FeatherHeart's kits.

As she reached the entrance, LimeLeaf was leaving camp.

- SmallFur, are you okay? You look so bad and tired..

- I've been working hard with LilyPaw's training. Everything is fine!

LimeLeaf looked in her sister's eyes.

- I'm asking it because I care about you. I want to make sure you're okay.

- I am, trust me...

- Just...maybe go for a walk or something, fresh air will make you feel better.

- Thanks for your advice..

LimeLeaf walked near the water pool.

She's looking for water mint .

SmallFur walked to border with LeafClan. She needed to tell

FeatherHeart that he's going to be a father of their kits.

With every step SmallFur was feeling like she's going to fell on the ground.

As she reached the border she looked for her LeafClan mate. After a while she saw white pelt running between trees.

- FeatherHeart!

A white tom stopped and walked to the border where SmallFur was waiting.

- I have to tell you something-

- Well I have to tell you something too. We're no longer mates.

The world stopped for SmallFur. She felt like she's losing her balance.

- It's to risky to be with you, plus I've found a better mate in LeafClan.

- But..but I'm caring your kits! – SmallFur shouted while crying.

- Same as LinenFoot. Listen SmallFur, there is no place for you in my life.

- S-so you don't care about our kits...that they'll grow up without a father...?

- They're not my kits...now leave, we're not going to be together anymore. – FeatherHeart leaved SmallFur and walked to his territory.

SmallFur was left alone.

Where should I go now ? My kits are going to be born any day...and I cant do it in the camp... How will I tell everyone that I'm having kits with a LeafClan warrior? They'll tell me to leave ! Oh StarClan , where I should go?!

Then she looked at her left side. Old barn was near. SmallFur decided to go in there. It started to rain so it was harder to Reach the barn. SmallFur was feeling so tired but she couldn't stop right now.

When she finalny entered barn she layed on old and dry straw.

After a while she had a really painfull shrink in her body.

Kits are comming ...

Chapter 30

After a long and painfull night she gave birth to four kits: two toms – RadiusKit, a bright tabby with white mark on forehead and StarlingKit, a dark grey kit ,and to two she-kits – AlderKit, a sandy colored kit and FinchKit, a grey kit with lighter patches on body. All four were laying next to SmallFur's belly, drinking her milk.

How could he abandon such an adorable kits like them?

Few tears fell on AlderKit and she rolled to SmallFur's leg, mewing in panic.

It was still raining outside. SmallFur wanted to catch some prey but she won't smell anything and most importantly, she cannot leave kits.

She grabbed some straw and covered her kits in it to make them warm. She standed up and tried to smell something in the barn. She heard a movement in straw.

Thanks StarClan, I have mice to eat!

She waited as the mouse will walk off it's hide and then she jumped at it, killing it with her claws. She grabbed her prey and walked back to her kits. Four furballs were rolling from one side to another one. They were blindly looking for their mother's pelt and milk. SmallFur layed on a straw and she putted her kits closer to her. After that she started eating her meal.

Time field, kits were growing. It's been some time Since SmallFur leaved her clan to gave birth to her kits. RdiusKit opened his eyes few days ago.

- Can't I go outside?

- Absolutly not RadiusKit! It's dangerous. I don't want to loose you...

- Allright. – RadiusKit carefully walked to his mother.

FinchKit was playing with SmallFur's tail. Her mother was waving tail and FinchKit was jumping and blindly hitting it. Other two kits were sleeping.

I should go back to my clan...but I can't leave my kits! But I have no choise...

SmallFur tried to quietly leave the old barn but her steps wokes up RadiusKit.

- What are you doing, mom?

SmallFur took a breath.

- RadiusKit I'I've ot to go somewhere...I need you to promise me something...t-that you will take care of your siblings and you'll protect them, this is your quest to do... - SmallFur hardly said that. She wanted to cry but she stopped her feelings.

RadiusKit looked at his mother.

- I promise. – he said.

SmallFur took a few steps to her son ald licked his head.

- Goodbye my darling... - she whispered while leavig.

- When will you come back? – RadiusKit quickly asked.

- You'll be in a better place then... - she cred while running out of old barn. She tried to forg et about her kits. She knew that no matter what RadiusKit will do here's no chanse for her kits to survive. She kept running, slipping on the wet grass and dirt. She must go back to her clan and have a normal life.